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Press release submitted by DOT

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AMES, Iowa – March 10, 2009 – The Iowa Transportation Commission today approved increased funding for Iowa's transit programs.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) allocated approximately \$36.5 million of federal transit funding to the State of Iowa. Of that amount, approximately \$10.6 million is directly allocated to Iowa's three metropolitan areas with populations greater than 200,000. The remaining funding is allocated to two statewide programs.

The first statewide program assists public transit systems serving urbanized areas with populations between 50,000 and 200,000. The second provides funding for public transit systems serving non-urbanized areas of the state. The Federal Transit Administration's preliminary apportionments indicate Iowa will receive \$10,689,659 for the urbanized program (not including areas with populations of 200,000 or more) and \$15,156,406 for the non-urbanized program.

Transit agencies provided candidate projects for the ARRA funding. Iowa Department of Transportation staff, in cooperation with the Iowa Public Transit Association's Public Transit Equipment and Facilities Management System Advisory Committee, reviewed the project proposals using a process similar to that used for annual federal capital discretionary funding. The approved projects, which can be implemented within the ARRA timeframes, include facility improvement projects and the purchase of much-needed replacement and high-priority expansion vehicles.